

U.S. Application No. 09/601,126
Reply to Final Office Action of July 10, 2006

PATENT
450101-02198

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-21 are pending. Claims 1, 4 and 18 are independent. Claims 1-21 are hereby amended. No new matter has been introduced. Support is provided throughout the Specification, specifically on pages 44-45. Changes to the claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-8, 9, 13, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,583,560 to Florin et al. (hereinafter, merely "Florin") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,496,228 to McGee et al. (hereinafter, merely "McGee") and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,177,931 to Alexander et al. (hereinafter, merely "Alexander").

Claims 10-12, 14, 15-17, and 19-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Florin in view of McGee and Alexander, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,977,974 to Hatori et al. (hereinafter, merely "Hatori").

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III. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“An information providing apparatus for displaying information on a screen, based on various information data provided through a plurality of information sources, comprising:

...means for recording a history of programs watched and heard by a user, and controlling the display of information such that a favorite channel of the user is displayed to be selectable a priori in accordance with the history,

wherein the menu screen is arranged to display the information in a plurality of dimensions and levels such that a substantial portion of the necessary information can be seen and navigated on a minimum number of screens to enable relatively easy programming decisions and selections,

wherein said plurality of dimensions and levels in the display are accessed as a function of the status of an operation key for displaying a program guide or search screen upon differing said plurality of dimensions and levels,

wherein the representative information indicating scene changes is captured and output to the first information source for recordal, and

wherein the representative information is recorded at the first information source prior to obtaining the first index information.” (emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, Florin relates to a system for selectively viewing and interacting with programs and services from a number of program/service sources. A control device controls the system, and the methods and apparatus incorporated in the system for managing selection, viewing, and interacting with the program/service offerings.

As understood by Applicants, McGee relates to detecting significant scenes of a source video and selecting keyframes to represent each detected significant scene. Selected

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keyframes are filtered to create a visual index or visual table of contents based on remaining keyframes.

As understood by Applicants, Alexander relates to television systems and to displaying and recording a control interface with television programs, video, advertising information and program scheduling information.

Applicants respectfully submit that Florin, McGee and Alexander, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the features of claim 1. Specifically, Applicants submit that there is no teaching or suggestion of an information providing apparatus for displaying information on a screen, based on various information data provided through a plurality of information sources wherein said plurality of dimensions and levels in the display are accessed as a function of the status of an operation key for displaying a program guide or search screen upon differing said plurality of dimensions and levels, recited in claim 1.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable.

For reasons similar to those described above with regard to independent claim 1, independent claims 4 and 18 are also believed to be patentable.

Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claims 1, 4 and 18 are patentable.

IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims are dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above, and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of the statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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